The Bible and Daily Living

Jesus as Saviour

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Jesus As Savior-God
Lesson for December 20, 1981
Bible Study Passage: Luke 2:1-14
Introduction

Once again we pause to make a pilgrimage to Bethlehem to rejoice again with the shepherds in praise to God for the birth and gift of his Son. Such a pilgrimage is not merely a journey of nostalgia, but a journey to the foundation place of the Christian faith.

Christmas is the special season in which we celebrate and share in the giving and receiving of gifts. It is a time in which we give reverence to the birth of Christ the Savior-God. Churches and homes are aglow with the pagentry of Christmas and all the special festivities that naturally take place in this season.

Our lesson this week will take us to Bethlehem to re-visit the events surrounding the incarnation of God. Returning to a site of special importance does something for the human spirit. To return to the place of one's roots gives one a feeling of security. A return to Bethlehem is somewhat like going home.

Bethlehem Re-Visited [Luke 2:1-5]

When Caesar Agustus spoke, everyone listened! The caesar was a very powerful person. When he decreed that everyone should enroll for the tax, that meant everyone. From the small town of Nazareth there came a young man and a young woman pregnant with child. Together they went and fulfilled a prophecy of long-standing (see Mic. 5:2).

No one probably took any notice of a couple entering the town of Bethlehem. The sign of a pregnant woman was no cause for alarm or concern. Though Joseph and Mary were married, their relationship was like that of any betrothed couple. Joseph stayed with Mary to protect her from the scandalizing minds in Nazareth.

No Vacancy [Luke 2[6-7]

"No Vacancy" signs are a source of frustration for weary travelers looking for a place to rest. Joseph and Mary were forced to take whatever shelter was available to them. The innkeeper they encountered was not necessarily hostile, he was simply out of space. Besides, he was hardly aware of who Joseph or Mary were nor of their significance.

The world's royalty is not impressed by the birth of a child in a cow stall. Birth is as common as the rising sun. What could it possibly matter that one more life had been added to the world's shifting population?

The good news of this scene in old Bethlehem is that God came to all of humanity through humble beginnings. Pomp and grandeur were not the styles that God used to announce the arrival of the Savior-God.

Good News For Lowly Shepherds [Luke 2:8-14]

While God did not resort to pomp and grandeur to announce the arrival of the Son, neither did he choose to reveal such news to royalty. The news came to lowly shepherds, that class of people who were considered by many to be outside religious respectability.

The shepherds surely felt undeserving of such an opportunity to receive the news of the Christ child's arrival. They were blessed with the privilege of seeing and the responsibility of carrying this news to others.

Noteworthy News [Luke 2:15-20]

Certain news is not worth hearing nor repeating. But this was surely not the case of the news of the arrival of Jesus. The shepherds nearly danced with joy over the marvelous opportunity to witness such a profound event!

These shepherds became the first messengers of the good news that came to them. They joyfully praised the God who lead them to witness the Savior's birth.

Mary and Joseph were proud of this newborn infant. They did not fully comprehend at first the significance of all that had taken place, but they followed their instincts because they sensed God's divine intervention in their lives.

Dr. Trimyer is Chaplain at Burnham Hospital in Champaign, Illinois (WLYP).

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The Pastor Speaks

By PETER HALE

I remember one time my father and I were working in the garden. A telephone message called him away and as he left he said "keep on working, I'll be back as soon as I can, then we'll go for a walk." Well, once he was out of sight, I suppose the drudgery of the work overwhelmed my better judgement and I began to play. By the time my father returned I had forgotten completely my garden duties and was really looking forward to his return so we could go hiking. As you can guess, once he got back, he was so displeased by the fact I didn't keep on working that we did not go for that walk. During advent season we look forward not only to the celebration once more of the birth of Christ, but to his return-the Second Advent. As a matter of fact, that seems to be a fad today. Everyone reads the signs of the times and proclaims that it can't be much longer, that the Lord must come soon. Famous, not so famous and infamous preachers and theologicans have forecast the end of time, and say that it is not far away. All eyes are cast upwards, waiting for that day, the day of the glorious return of the Lord It reminds me of the picture of the fall of Saigon with everyone waiting for the last helicopter out. Mind you, in spite of the fact we are told that we will know neither the day nor the hour, I am not saying it is all a hoax or mistake. It may very well be true. (And if it is then we had better be doing the things here, the good deeds created for us (Ephesians 2:10) I believe that a large number of people have become so engrossed in the eminent return of Christ that they have forgotten why they are here. It would be far better to be completely surprised by Christ's return, and found obeying his command to love as he loves us.

Peter R. Hale is pastor of Appomattox Courthouse Presbyterian and Walker's Presbyterian Churches.

Mt. Airy celebration set

The Sunshine Choir of the Mt. Airy Baptist Church, Appomattox, Virginia, will be celebrating its anniversary on the third Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3:00 p.m.

The Rev. Harrison Kelso will be the speaker of the hour. Please come out one and all to help make this program a success.

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Church News

Vienna Choir Boys to appear

The world famous Vienna Choir Boys will appear with host George Vandeman on a Christmas edition of "It Is Written" Sunday, Dec. 20.

The special features a half-hour of inspiring music with the choir performing a variety of Christmas carols. This telecast won an "Angel" award for excellence from Religion in Media.

The special will air in the Appomattox area Sunday morning at 8:30 on WDBJ-TV, Channel 7.

Now in its 25th year, "It Is Written" began in 1956 and is shown on over 130 stations in the United States, Canada, Australia, and the Carribean.

"It Is Written" is a broadcast designed for today's world by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Your local church at Court Street in Appomattox invites you to join with them in enjoying this Christmas Special.

Catholics plan special service

Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church will hold a Communal Penance Service on December 17 at the Oakville School on Highway 26.

On December 20 Mass will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Christmas Cantata and a social hour. This service is open to the community and all visitors are welcome.

Christmas Eve Mass and December 31 Mass will be held at 7 p.m.

Sunday Masses on December 27 and January 3 will be held at 11:30 as usual.

Sunday, December 20 is collection day for gifts and foodstuffs for the needy.

All services will be held at Oakville School on Highway 26; the Rev. Albert Pereira, Hurt, Va., phone 324-4824, is pastor of the church.

Musical set

The Sanctuary Choir of Liberty Baptist Church directed by Mrs. J. Franklin Vaughan and accompanied by orchestration will present a musical "The Reason For the Season" on Sunday evening, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Soloists are Sandra Mitchell, Teddy Mitchell, Carole Beaty, Joe Vaughan, Doris Nash, Steve Marshall and ensembles.

The residents of the surrounding area are cordially invited to attend.

St. Luke news

The congregation of members and friends were so pleased to have the Pastor Rev. McLaughlin back for the regular preaching service Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at the St. Luke Baptist Church. After having been out because of illness for two months he is feeling much better and conducted his services very well. His subject was "Give Thanks Always to God." In his message he related how thankful he was to all members and friends of St. Luke Church for the kind way that they had been to him while with them for 11 years. Now because of illness and his doctors orders he is having to leave St. Luke. The little ones will certainly miss him because he always included them in the services.

The Adult Choir gave the music and the young adult ushers were in their staff of service. The offering was very good.

There will be a song program by quartet singers at the St. Luke Baptist Church Sunday, Dec. 13 at 3:00 p.m. The St. Luke Sunday School has planned a Christmas program Dec. 19 at 8:00 p.m.

The Concord Baptist Sunday School Union met with the Evergreen Church School, Naruna, Va., Sunday, Nov. 29 at 9:45. President, Rev. T. M. Venerable was present and carried out a very interesting program. The executive staff was chosen with two replacements being assistant secretary and one assistant teacher. The schools contributed very good to the scholarship funds for the last of the year; president Venerable gave his annual addition also and it was well taken by all the listeners.

Mr. David Moore conducted the memorial services for the deceased of the union which was very moving.

Mr. Greg Canada from Amarillo, Texas was up recently to give a lecture to the scholars of Norfolk State College where he was a graduate as a certified accountant. He then visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Canada and his grandmother, Mrs. Louise Canada.

Mrs. Sadie Scott is improving nicely after having treatment in a Lynchburg hospital. Her sister, Marion Williamson and her husband spent awhile with her while she was in and mending. The Williamson's are residents of Washington, D. C.

The boy preacher, 7 year old, was up to the union and preached at the Hat Creek and Mt. Zion Churches the 29th of Nov. He was Thomas Howcott of Norfolk. Va.

Christmas cantata set

Cantata to be presented at 5:00 p.m. Sunday, December 20 the Choir of Appomattox Court House Presbyterian Church, under the direction of Mrs. Teresa Crawford, will present a Christmas Cantata entitled "Love Came Down," by Sonny Salisbury. Featured during musical will be Virginia Carnefix, piano; Carolyn Carnefix, flute; Lisa Williamson, Clarinet; Mike Gosey, guitar; and soloists, Jeff and Diane Smith, Rob Williams, Lloyd Graeber and Vivian Gosey. David Caldwell will narrate. The public is invited. A covered dish supper will follow.

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ASCS Today

Election results in

By TOM CONRAD

The County Committee met at the ASCS office last Wednesday to tabulate the ballots for the 1982 community committee elections. The results of the tabulation are as follows:

Stonewall Community - Chairman - J. P. Alvis, Jr.; Vice-chairman - R. T. Megginson - Regular-Member - J. Lyle Mapre; 1st. Alternate - Calvin Harris; 2nd. Alternate - Lacy Webb. Cloverhill Community - Chairman - Marvin A. Glover, Jr.; Vice-Chairman - J. H. Rosser; Regular Member - E. M. Covington; 1st. Alternate - G. Samuel Martin, Jr.; 2nd Alternate - Oliver L. Chambers. Southside Community - Chairman - Norman A. Booth; Vice-Chairman - H. B. Jones; Regular Member - J. T. Hunter, Jr.; 1st Alternate - H. W. Mann; 2nd Alternate - Coleman Robinson.

The gentlemen elected will help administer ASCS programs during the 1982 calendar year. They will be called upon at various times to meet with the County Committee to make decisions to best benefit farmers through various programs that are administered.

I would like to congratulate the above gentlemen and I would also like to thank all those that voted in this year's election.

The newly elected committeemen (Chairman, Vice-chairman, Regular Member) will meet in the ASCS office on December 16 at 10:00 a.m. for the County Convention. They will serve as delegates to the Convention to elect one person to serve on the County Committee.

Results of the convention will be publicized, however, in the meantime, if you wish to attend, the convention is open to the public.

1980-Crop Wheat, Barley producers to receive deficiency payments - Eligible wheat farmers soon will receive an estimated $420 million in deficiency payments on their 1981 crop, while barley farmers will get about $50 million.

Deficiency payments are required under the 1981 wheat and barley programs because average market prices received by farmers during the first five months (June through October) of the marketing year were below established target price levels of $3.81 for wheat and $2.60 for barley.

National weighted average market prices were $3.66 per bushel for wheat and $2.02 per bushel for barley. Thus, eligible producers will be paid 15 cents per bushel for their 1981-crop wheat and 11 cents per bushel for this year's barley.

The 1981 wheat crop totaled about 2.75 billion bushels, while the 1981 barley crop was about 476 million bushels. USDA estimated place the average farm price for these crops this year at $3.80 to $3.95 per bushel for wheat and $2.45 to $2.60 for barley. If these estimates prove correct, the value of The 1981 wheat crop would be between $10.44 and $10.85 billion, while the barley crop would be worth between $1.17 and $1.24 billion.

Deficiency payments will be made to wheat and barley farmers who reported their 1981-crop acreage and filed an application for payment with the ASCS office. Checks will be issued within the next couple of weeks.

The final 1981 national program acreage for barley has been increased from 9.7 to 10.2 million acres and the national program acreage for wheat has been increased from 71.0 to 84.5 million acres. The national program acreage represents the number of acres of a crop needed to meet estimated demand and assure desirable carryover levels.

He said a primary factor for increasing the national program acreages for the two commodities was higher-than-expected U. S. exports of barley and wheat this marketing year.

The allocation factor for both wheat and barley is 100 percent. The allocation factor is computed by dividing the national program acreage for a crop by the harvested acreage.

If 1981-crop deficiency payments for sorghum are required, they will be made next April. If payments are necessary for rice and cotton, they will be made over February.

Locals place first

The Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District, (R-E. Lee SWCD), took first place honors in the 34th Annual Goodyear Conservation Awards Program. Carlton Griggs of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company presented a plaque to Dennis W. Torrence, Chairman of the wining District, at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, (VASWCD), held in Williamsburg last week. Other directors from the R. E. Lee SWCD attending were, Dr. Franklin F. Flint, who was elected president of the VASWCD, and E. Carter Martin.

In addition to receiving a plaque, John W. Hix, chosen by the first place district as its outstanding cooperator for the year, and Dennis Torrence will represent the Robert E. Lee SWCD on the grand prize tour, and expenses-paid, vacation-study trip to the Wigwam Resort and Goodyear Farms, Litchfield Park, Arizona later this month. They will be joined by representatives of 52 other first place districts from throughout the United States, including Puerto Rico.

The winning district was selected from Virginia's 42 SWCD's by a state judging committee on the basis of its conservation accomplishments. Some major accomplishments of the Robert E. Lee SWCD include: Sixty-seven operators entering into cooperative agreements with the district requesting technical assistance to voluntarily carry out conservation on their lands. There are now 737 landowners who have entered into cooperative agreements with the district.

The streambank revetment project below the Leesville Dam sponsored by the SWCD was completed this spring. The work was done by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers at a total cost of $342,007.

District representatives attended meetings, contacted state legislators, State Water Control Board and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to get construction permits for site 4A of Buffalo River Watershed.

The District sponsored 4-H Soils Judging Contest. Thirty-five hundred church bulletin inserts were distributed to local churches in observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

The R. E. Lee SWCD co-sponsored application for a special ACP project in the Mill Creek tributary of Amherst County's Buffalo River Watershed Project. Approximately $80,000 was appropriated to carry out needed conservation practices on farmland during the past year.

AT THE 34TH ANNUAL GOODYEAR AWARDS program, the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District won first place honors. Shown from left to right, Carlton Griggs, Representative of the Goodyear Company, making the presentation; Dr. Franklin Flint; Dennis W. Torrence, chairman of the winning district, accepting the plaque; Robert McClenny and E. Carter Martin.

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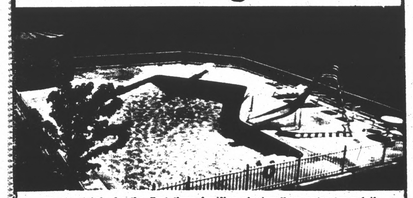

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LDHIA meets, makes awards

"The South 40"
by JAMES A. SMITH
EXTENSION AGENT

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

The Annual Meeting of the Lynchburg Dairy Herd Improvement Association met last week to report on its years work and to make awards for growth.

The H. E. and E. M. Covington Dairy placed first for the most improved milk production with an increase of 1712 pounds.

R. M. and M. E. Harris was named the top herd in Reproductive Efficiency.

Hix Brothers Dairy placed third in pounds of fat produced which was 579 pounds per cow.

Congratulations to these herds for outstanding accomplishments.

* * *

Appomattox County will host the 1982 Virginia Farm Management Tour on July 17. There will be several thousand people here that day.

The six farms to be visited are: Wildwood Farm, Edlee Acres, The Torrence Farm, Hix Brothers Dairy, Maple Hill Farm and The Clarence Jones Farm.

Even though these farmers will be "dressing up" for company, the entire county needs to be aware of the importance of many urban and farmer visitors coming.

One useful tool is the use of a "common" flower. The Tour Committee has selected Orange Boy Marigold. Hopefully many homes and businesses will arrange to use this flower for planting. This variety is readily available from most seed catalogs. The Middle School and High School Vo Ag Departments, certain 4-H groups and others will be growing this variety of marigold to promote and celebrate the '82 tour.

Marigolds are one of the easiest seed to start, it is a plant that has few insects or disease pests and it blooms until frost.

* * *

I haven't made any local assessment of the production of red clover seed, but I do note that USDA is reporting that red clover seed production nationally is down 25% from 1980 and the lowest production since records were begun in 1919.

This will put pressure on the availability of seed for spring seeding. You many want to line up your sources now.

* * *

There are three new additions to the alfalfa variety recommendation list for 1982- Apollo-Conestoga and Olympic. More information will be given on the varieties later.

Last week traveling across the county I became concerned about the amount of broom sedge showing up in pastures and hay land. Winter is a good time to measure the degree of infestation since there is no competition. Soil test results coming in last week showed pH levels at 4.3 and 4.6. Is there any wonder that the growers were encountering problems.

I can only encourage you to use the soil test program to determine your lime and fertility requirements. With lime costs well over $10 a ton spread, it makes good sense to know whether lime is needed and how much.

Where lime is needed and plowing is to be done, it is preferable to plow the lime down.

* * *

A major fight appears to be shaping up between those who would save 2,4-D and those who want to see it removed from sale channels. A national coalition for a Reasonable 2,4-D Policy has been organized to safeguard, 2,4-D from irresponsible legislation or regulatory action.

* * *

The chairman of this group, Robert W. Miller, says, "We can hide our heads in the sand and believe that the issue will die a natural death. But if we do, we will see 2,4-D follow Silvex, 2,4,5-T. DDT, Chlordane and other pesticides which were restricted or removed from use." He further states, "The science of pest control has advanced more in the last 40 years than in the previous 100 centuries. The successful use of 2,4-D was the springboard for the advancement of this science."

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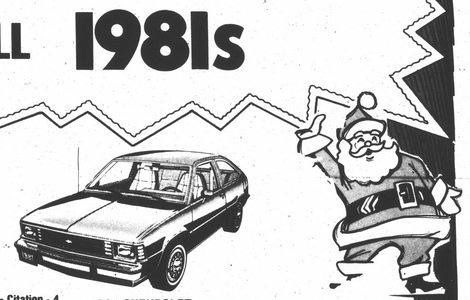

1981 CHEVROLET - Citation - 4 Dr. - Silver - Maroon Vinyl Interior - Tinted Glass - Floor Mats - Body Side Moldgs. - 4 Cylinder - 4 Speed Transmission - Power Steering - Full Wheel Covers - W.S.W. Tires.

1981 CHEVROLET - Citation - 4 Door - Burnt Orange - Camel Vinyl Trim - T. Glass - F. Mats - Body Side Mldg. - 4 Cylinder - 4 Speed Manual Trans. - Power Steering - Full Wheel Covers - W.S.W. Tires

1981 CHEVROLET - Citation - 2 Door - Burnt Orange - Camel Vinyl Interior - T. Glass - F. Mats - Body Side Molding - Remote L.H. Mirror - Power Brakes - 4 Cylinder - 4 Speed Trans. - Power Steering - Rally Wheels - W.S.W. Tires - Dual Rear Speakers.

1981 CHEVROLET - Citation - 4 Door - Lt. Blue - Blue Vinyl Bench Seats - Tinted Glass - F. Mats - 4 Speed Transmission - Power Steering - Full Wheel Covers - W.S.W. Tires

1981 CHEVROLET - Citation - 2 Door - Light Blue - Blue Vinyl Interior - Tinted Glass - F. Mats - Body Side Molding - Power Brakes - V-6 - Automatic Trans. - Power Steering - Full Wheel Covers - W.S.W. Tires - AM/FM Radio - Rear Seat Speaker

1981 CHEVROLET - Impala - 4 Door Sedan - Lt. Blue - Dark Blue Vinyl - T. Glass - F. Mats - Air Conditioning - Remote L.H. Mirror - Cruise Control - V-6 - Automatic Trans. - W.S.W. - AM/FM Radio - Dual Rear Seat Speakers - Value Appearance Group

1981 CHEVROLET - Citation - 4 Door - Champagne - Camel Sport Cloth Interior - T. Glass - F. Mats - Body Side Moldg. - 4 Cylinder - 4 Speed Trans. - Power Steering - Full Wheel Covers - W.S.W. Tires

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